

House Flies: *Musca Domestica*

The house fly is the most common of all large flies and can be identified by its:

- **Size:** The house fly is 6 to 7mm (about 1/4 inch) long. Like all insects, it has six legs.
- **Colour:** The house fly is grey in colour, with four thin longitudinal black stripes on the thorax
- **Eyes:** Its head is dominated by its large, red compound eyes.

Adult flies generally live two to four weeks, but they can survive for up to two months, particularly when suitable food is available. Flies will overwinter in the larval or pupal stage in protected locations to emerge as the weather warms.

They can mature to adulthood within a week with the female able to lay up to 500 eggs in a few days by laying batches in small groups, ideally on decaying organic matter. With 10 to 12 generations able to be produced in a single year in temperate areas, an infestation can build up quickly.



Why are flies attracted to my food facility?

The odours that emanate from food processing facilities can attract a multitude of pests, including house flies which can easily travel up to three kilometres – and have been shown as able to detect odours from at least that far away.

And it's not just the good food smells from within the plant that attract the flies, it's also the rotting waste smells from unsanitary or open garbage containers. Once in the proximity of the plant, exterior lighting can further attract the flies, and open doors will be an invitation to entry.

Why are flies a problem?

When flies stop first at garbage or other unsanitary areas to feed, breed or rest, bacteria will collect on their suction-cup-like feet and hairy bodies, as well as their sponging mouthparts as they suck up, vomit then re-ingest food. When they then journey inside the facility and land on food or food-contact surfaces, they can transfer this bacteria.

In fact, flies can spread more than 200 pathogens, including the foodborne illness bacteria *E. coli*, *Listeria* and *Salmonella*.

With their prodigious reproductive capabilities, the sighting of an occasional fly today can lead to an infestation in a week, which can lead to food contamination, recalls and audit or inspection failures.

How do I keep flies from being a problem?

Ecolab's proactive and comprehensive large fly programme takes an 'Outside-In' approach to help:

- Reduce fly pressure around the exterior of a facility
- Prevent flies from entering the facility
- Effective management of flies, that may gain entry.

Four Key Recommendations

FOCUS ON THE EXTERIOR

- Eliminate standing water
- Reduce attractants
- Regular clean up of organic materials
- Properly cover garbage—store away from all entrances

CREATE A BARRIER

- Keep doors and windows closed
- Use Screens on Windows
- Use air-curtains, plastic strips etc. on frequently used entrances
- Create positive air pressure within the facility

SANITISE THE INTERIOR

- Remove unnecessary clutter
- Clean up unsanitary conditions
- Keep waste bins closed
- Regularly clean drains

PARTNER WITH ECOLAB, WHO WILL

- Inspect your facility
- Identifies conditions that would attract flies
- Recommends ways to reduce fly pressure and entry
- Provides needed treatment

Ask about our Large Fly Program:

AUS: 13 62 33
NZ: 0508 489 684

Email: aus.pest@ecolab.com
Email: customercare.pestnz@ecolab.com